

Testimony Concerning HB 6187 & SB 1128
Judiciary Committee, April 1st 2015
Jennifer Brantner

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 6187 & SB 1128, *AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS* and *AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL ABUSE* respectively.

Ask anyone that knows me and they'll say that I prefer the company of animals to most people. While that's not entirely accurate, there is something to be said about how amazing it is to spend time with animals. Unlike people, they give you their all. They don't ask for anything other than shelter, food and water and a nice scratch behind the ears. So it infuriates me to hear about people abusing defenseless animals and basically getting away with it. My entire life I've had a dog. As a child, our house was never without one and as an adult; I've rescued two of my own. I personally donate monthly to the ASPCA and provide random donations to different animal rescues; particularly when I see their pleas for help when dealing with horrific cases of abuse. I contribute but it makes my heart hurt to think the abuser will probably only see a slap on the wrist; if that. Animals aren't property and shouldn't be treated as such.

I really feel like the passing of these bills are a tremendous step in the right direction. If animal abusers can see that their behavior won't be tolerated, that there are real consequences to be dealt with – if these bills could make even one person stop and think, it would be a victory.

With so many stories of abusers stating how they started their cycle of abuse with animals first, it only makes sense to introduce stricter laws around this topic.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,
Jennifer Brantner
Enfield, CT

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